## Ella & Friends Dog Park

Ten years ago, before the City of Deer Park was home to the Ella & Friends Dog Park, Jeff Taylor would often take his dog, Ella, on drives as long as 45 minutes to let her stretch her legs. Then, the idea to turn a two-acre piece of property near the Jimmy Burke Activity Center into the city's first dog park took hold. "We had visited dog parks around the country, and we knew how much fun they could be for people and their dogs," Taylor said. "My son, Ryan, and I were walking near Jimmy Burke one day, and we realized how perfect the space would be for a dog park in our city, and that started it all."

Beginning in early 2006, Taylor and his wife, former City Council member Dianna Taylor, worked with the City of Deer Park, and eventually the Deer Park Rotary Club, to build the facility. "The City Manager at the time, Ron Crabtree, was a huge help to us when we took the item before Council," Taylor said. "There was no money in the budget at the time for a new park, but once Council understood what the dog park would represent for the community, they gave us the land and we were able to get started.

"The City has been very supportive of the park since that time. They not only extended a water line to the park for water fountains, but they also put up lights, which is a big deal because people can use the park when they get off work." By the time it was fully constructed, the park truly represented a city-

wide effort, with donations from the Taylors and funds raised by the Rotary Club as part of its centennial project. Former Mayor Wayne Riddle, T and T Construc-



tion, Deer Park Animal Hospital, Jerry Mouton, Underwood Animal Clinic, and many other Deer Park businesses and individuals also contributed to the project, which cost approximately \$25,000 to complete.

"Our son, Ryan, was President of the Rotary Club at the time, and he helped out quite a bit with raising the funds we needed to finish the park," Dianna Taylor said. "He came up with the idea of getting donations by dedicating personalized brick pavers to people who contributed money, and those pavers are still at the park today."

On the day of the grand opening - July 22, 2006 - Taylor said he was somewhat concerned that the park wouldn't be popular. "I was a little worried at first, but that was dispelled at the grand opening when we had over 20 dogs show up," he said. "There were actually people who wanted to use the park before we were even open, and after the official dedication, people just kept showing up!"

Taylor said he and Ella went to the park every day for months, meeting



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and greeting new guests and sharing their experiences at the park. Today, the pair still visit the dog park often, seeing new residents take advantage of the facility every day. "It's really a neat phenomenon if you think about it - just 10 years ago, we didn't have a dog park anywhere near us, but now there are dog parks in many of our local cities," he said. "Any time you go by the Ella & Friends Dog Park, you'll see people with their dogs getting to use that space, and I think that speaks for itself."



## **General Information**

## Elected Officials

Jerry Mouton, Jr	Mayor
Sherry Garrison	
Thane Harrison	
Tommy Ginn	
Bill Patterson	
Ron Martin	
Rae A. Sinor	
Contact the Mayor and members of City Co	ouncil by e-mail at cityhall@deerparktx.org.

**Department Directors** 

James J. Stokes	City Manager
Gary M. Jackson	Assistant City Manager
Sandra Watkins	City Secretary
Donna Todd	Director, Finance
Bill Philibert	Director, Human Resources
Bill Pedersen	Director, Public Works
Scott E. Swigert	Director, Parks and Recreation
Rebecca Pool	Director, Library
Robert Hemminger	Director, Emergency Services
Greg Grigg	Čhief of Police
Linda McHone	

## Other Appointed Officials

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## City Facilities

	ty Facilities	
Animal Shelter	281-478-7274.	4213 Luella
Art Park Players Dinner Theatre.		
Avon Recreation Center		
Battleground Golf Course		
City Hall	281-479-2394.	710 E. San Augustine
Claude Burgess Recreation Center.	281-478-2060.	4200 Kalwick
Community Center	281-478-2050.	610 E. San Augustine
Fire Station #1	281-478-2043.	1302 Center
Fire Station #2		
Fire Station #3		
Jimmy Burke Activity Center	281-478-2049.	500 W. 13 <sup>th</sup> Street
Kingsdale Center	281-478-7215.	2218 Kingsdale
Maxwell Adult Center	281-478-7276.	1201 Čenter
Municipal Court	281-478-7238.	1302 Center
Police Station	281-479-1511.	2911 Center
Public Library	281-478-7208.	3009 Center
Swimming Pool	281-478-2055.	610 E. San Augustine
Transfer Station		

The *Messenger* is a quarterly newsletter published by the City of Deer Park, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536. Go to www.deerparktx.gov to read the newsletter online or to sign up for *Notify Me* so you can receive the latest edition of the Messenger by e-mail as soon as it is available.

## December

- 1 City Council Meeting 7:30pm LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 5 Siren Test 12pm
- 7 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30pm
- 12 Siren Test 12pm
- 15 City Council Meeting 7:30pm
- 19 Siren Test 12pm
- 21 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30pm
- 24 City Services Closed Christmas Eve
- 25 City Services Closed Christmas Day
- 26 Siren Test 12pm

## January

- 1 City Services Closed New Year's Day
- 2 Siren Test 12pm
- 4 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30pm
- 5 City Council Meeting 7:30pm
- 9 Siren Test 12pm
- 16 Siren Test 12pm
- 18 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30pm
- 19 City Council Meeting 7:30pm
- 23 Siren Test 12pm
- 26 LEPC Meeting 11am
- 30 Siren Test 12pm

## **February**

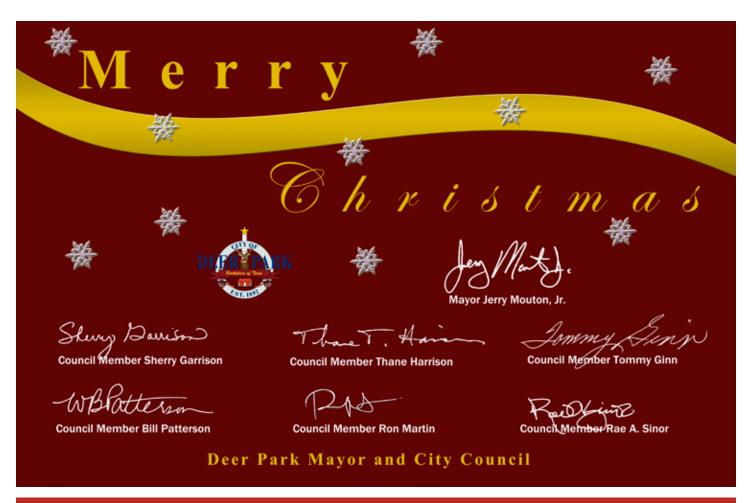
- 1 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30pm
- 2 City Council Meeting 7:30pm
- 6 Siren Test 12pm
- 13 Siren Test 12pm
- 15 Planning & Zoning Meeting 7:30pm
- 16 City Council Meeting 7:30pm
- 20 Siren Test 12pm
- 27 Siren Test 12pm

## THE BATTLEGROUND

1600 Georgia Ave.

www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com Golf Course 281-478-2080

Republic Grill 281-478-2089



## Fire Department

#### Santa Around Town

Every December, members of the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department escort Santa on a fire truck



through the neighborhoods of our city. Beginning Wednesday, December 16 and continuing through Saturday, December 19, Santa will tour the town from 6pm to 9:30pm each night. So, when you hear the sirens and music playing, you'll know Santa is coming!

This hometown tradition began with a dedicated group of volunteer firefighters 31 years ago. This is a very special event for children and adults alike. Once Santa's route is finalized, the schedule will be posted at www.dpvfd.org.

## Gift of Christmas

The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Dept. (DPVFD) is requesting donations for their annual Gift of Christmas program. Every year, the program provides assistance to over 120 families in need within the Deer Park Independent School District. New, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, and monetary donations are being accepted. Please make checks payable to the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department GOC. To request a collection container for your business, arrange for the firefighters to pick up your donation items, or to inform us of a family in need, call 281-478-7283. Donations will be accepted at Fire Station No. 3, Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm, Dec. 1-16. The DPVFD is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

#### Become a Member

The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department is accepting applications for volunteer firefighters and EMS service providers. The next academy begins in March 2016. Candidates with prior fire or EMS training may be eligible for the fast track program and can start sooner. All members are offered pay per call/shift stipends and a state pension program. For more information, go to www.dpvfd.org.

## Christmas Tree & Lighting Safety

- If you opt to purchase a live tree, keep it fresh by watering it throughout the holiday season.
- Monitor your live tree. When a tree loses a large amount of needles, it is an indication that

## Fire Department

- the tree is dried out, which is a fire hazard.
- Select a location for your tree away from heat sources, such as fireplaces and heat vents.
- Inspect strings of lights for frayed wires, loose connections, areas lacking insulation around the wires, and broken or cracked light sockets.
- Replace all burned out bulbs.
- When purchasing lights, look for an inspection label from an independent testing laboratory.
- Place strings of lights on a nonflammable surface, plug them in, and wait 10 to 15 minutes to ensure the lights are working properly.
- Use only indoor lights on your Christmas tree. Outdoor lights may be larger or burn at a hotter temperature.
- Use LED lighting whenever possible because it is brighter and produces minimal heat.
- Do not link more than 3 strings of lights together unless the packaging on all three strings indicates that it is safe to do so.
- Turn off Christmas tree lights when you are asleep or away from home.

## Deep Frying a Turkey

Are you thinking of deep frying a turkey? Deep fryers can be dangerous and may cause injury or result in a fire. If you plan to fry a turkey, please read the important safety information below.

- Purchase a factory-built unit.
   Do not use homemade fryers.
- Use the fryer outside in a wellventilated area. Avoid using the fryer in the garage, or on a deck or other combustible surface.
- Place the fryer at a safe distance from buildings and combustible

- materials. With no thermostat controls, the units can overheat the oil to the point of combustion.
- Never leave the fryer unattended and ensure that the unit is on a flat, dry surface. Units can easily tip over and spill gallons of hot oil.
- Do not overfill the fryer with oil. The oil may spill out when the turkey is placed into the unit. Oil may hit the burner causing a fire to engulf the entire unit.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and dry before placing it into the hot oil. Partially frozen turkeys can cause a spillover and may result in a fire.
- Use leather gloves or pot holders when touching the unit or lid. The sides of the cooking pot, lid, and pot handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards. Keep all pets and children away from the fryer. It can remain hot for several hours.
- Keep a multi-purpose fire extinguisher nearby in case of a fire.
   Never use water to extinguish a turkey fryer fire. Oil and water do not mix.
- Clear the area and call 9-1-1 if a fire occurs.

## FCPEMSD Accomplishments

As the Fire Chief for the City of Deer Park, I want to express the importance of the Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Service District (FCPEMSD) and how much of an impact it has made not only on the department, but also the citizens we serve.

This funding truly impacts every aspect of emergency management

in Deer Park. Without this support, we could not maintain the equipment at the current level. Our EMS could not provide the quality of service without the additional personnel. The Fire Marshal's Office would not be capable of ensuring inspections were completed annually and the level of community education would not be available. The Fire Dept. would have to find alternate means to fund the replacement of firefighting gear and equipment.

In 2014-2015 alone, this funding supported: the addition of two full-time paramedic positions to staff a peak-time ambulance, the purchase of training equipment, improvements to our radio communication system, upgrades to our ambulance stretcher systems and one defibrillator unit, replacement of tools and equipment, additions to Fire Station #2, and the purchase of a fire engine delivered in 2012. It also supported the continued funding of additional paramedic staff, protective gear, and vehicle improvements.

Funding provided by the district allows the departments to improve services without placing a complete tax burden on the citizens of Deer Park. Funds currently collected allow the department to operate effectively while minimizing the burden on the general city budget.

All of this would not have been possible without funding provided by the FCPEMSD.

Greg Bridges

For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov, scroll over *Your Government*, and click on the link for the district.

## Police Department

## CCPD Accomplishments

The Deer Park Police Department would like to thank all citizens for their continued support of the Crime Control and Prevention District. The sales tax revenues collected for the district were excellent last fiscal year, with over \$1.2 million raised within the first 10 months.

These funds are extremely valuable to our department, purchasing SWAT entry vests, 15 new tasers, 3 Tahoe vehicles for patrol and 1 for our crime scene officer, 3 vehicles for Investigations, and all of the equipment necessary to outfit the new vehicles. These funds also continue to support our crime prevention officer position, 2 dispatchers, and 1 additional dispatcher in the hiring process.

Finally, as initially intended, monies have been set aside to construct a new police department firing range and training facility. Recently, the department received the plans and project manual needed to go out for bid for the construction of the firing range. We are very excited about this project, and look forward to its completion in the near future, as it will provide additional avenues for officer training within the police department.

We are fortunate to have the additional revenue from the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) – the funds have continually benefitted our agency and the citizens of Deer Park.

For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov, scroll over *Your Government,* and click on the link for the district.

## Teen Safe Driving Program

The Deer Park Police Department (DPPD) has partnered with State Farm Insurance to bring you the Teen Safe Driving Program. The program is a grant assisted educational program aimed at reducing the incidence of impaired driving and distracted driving among teen drivers through education and behavior modification. Teen driver safety education will be provided as classroom-based instruction in the Deer Park Independent School District, and as teen driver safety activities at community functions. The instructors and activity leaders are employees of the DPPD who are experts in their respective fields.

## Citizen's Police Academy

The Deer Park Police Dept. is currently recruiting citizens for the 33<sup>rd</sup> class of the Citizen's Police Academy. Classes begin on February 18, 2016 and meet every Thursday, 6:30-9:30pm, until graduation. Classes generally run for 14 weeks and cover several aspects of policerelated work.

Classes include hands-on training in SWAT, DWI procedures, self defense, investigations, communications, and many other topics. Prospective students must be at least 18 years old with a clear criminal history, willing to attend the entire academy, and live, work, or attend school in Deer Park.

Graduates are encouraged to join the Deer Park Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. Alumni members continue to interact with the police department in a number of capacities.

The academy is provided free of

charge. For more information, contact Sheila Plovanich at 281-930-2118 or splovanich@deerparktx.org.

## Gift Card Scams

Do you have any unused gift cards that you want to trade for cash? If so, keep in mind that many online websites offering to facilitate such exchanges are linked to criminal activity. Examples of gift card scams reported to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) are described below.

- You sell a gift card on an auction site or secondary gift card market site. You receive payment for the sale and send the PIN associated with the gift card to the buyer. The buyer then disputes the charge after using the gift card or stops payment.
- You purchase an item on an auction site and are advised by the seller to purchase gift cards to pay for the transaction. After purchasing the gift cards, you find out the auction transaction is a scam.

Consumers should also be cautious of social media postings that appear to offer vouchers or gift cards. Some fraudulent offers even pose as holiday promotions or contests. The old saying still holds true, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

You can take steps to protect yourself against fraudulent transactions.

- Conduct your transactions in person at a reputable store kiosk or local pawn shop.
- If you decide to proceed with an online transaction, use a reputable company. Read reviews online and check the Better Business Bureau.

## Police Department

 Never release the PIN of the card until after the transaction is final.

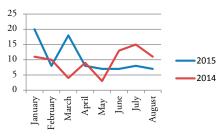
If you believe you have been a victim of a gift card scam, you may file a complaint at www.IC3.gov or through your local police dept.

#### Crime Trends

Motor vehicle burglaries and credit card abuse/identity fraud crimes have been increasing in our area. In 2014, from January to August, we had 76 reported motor vehicle burglaries and 97 reported theft/identity fraud incidents. In 2015, during the same months, there were 83 reported motor vehicle burglaries and 118 reported theft/identity fraud incidents. The data shows an increase of 9.2% in motor vehicle burglaries and a 22% increase in credit card abuse/identity fraud from 2014 to 2015.

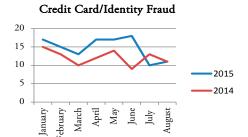
There was a significant increase in motor vehicle burglaries in January and March of this year. However, since April, reported incidents are trending constant at 7 to 8 per month.

#### Motor Vehicle Burglaries



Reported incidents of credit card abuse/identity fraud decreased slightly in March, and then returned back to a consistent 17 to 18 reported incidents from April to June. In July, the number of reported incidents had a significant

reduction from previous months and then rose slightly in August.



Based on historical data, even though motor vehicle burglaries decreased in recent months, there may be an increase in 2016, and with the consistent number of credit card abuse/identity fraud incidents, the trend is expected to remain steady through the rest of the year. To check out crime data in Deer Park or sign up to receive crime alerts via e-mail, go to www.crimereports.com.

#### Domestic Violence

For those in an abusive relationship, holidays, including Valentine's Day, can be as much of a struggle as every day. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1 in 4 women report experiencing domestic violence in their lifetimes. About 2 million injuries and 1,300 deaths each year result from domestic violence. Domestic violence affects all cultural, religious, socioeconomic, and ethnic groups. Sometimes women don't even realize they are in a violent relationship because this is the only life they know.

Antonio Borrello, PhD, claims there are 6 early warning signs of an abusive relationship.

 Moving Too Fast - Immediately wanting to see each other every

- night or wanting to move in after only a month. Getting serious so quickly gives the controlling person more control over the other person's life.
- Unrealistic Expectations As the relationship develops into a more serious one, you may find that your partner expects a perfect relationship with very stereotypical gender roles. His or her happiness depends on you.
- Hypersensitivity and Jealousy -The jealous partner overreacts to small issues. He or she often has low self-esteem and takes everything personally.
- Excessive Gifts Your new partner immediately showers you with lavish gifts, especially when he or she knows you are uncomfortable with it.
- Imposed Isolation Your partner criticizes and questions your friends. Abusers will try to make you feel guilty for spending time with your friends and family.
- Mean or Abusive Towards Others Watch how he or she treats the people around you. Do they make a scene when something goes wrong? Abusers have short tempers and work hard to hide it from you.

If you notice one of the signs, you aren't necessarily in an abusive relationship. However, if you notice multiple signs as your relationship progresses, there is cause for concern. Trust your judgment. If you are in an abusive relationship, contact the Deer Park Police Dept. for help at 281-479-1511.

## Police Department

## Holiday Crime Prevention

Although this is the season to be jolly, please be wary of burglars, thieves, and other criminals looking for opportunities to ruin your holiday spirit. Below are a few tips to help keep you and your family from becoming the next victim.

- Lock your doors and windows when you leave your home. Do not run extension cords from outside through a window to be plugged in because then the window cannot be properly secured.
- Do not openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window so it is easily visible from the street.
- Do not advertise when you are not home. Burglars look for cues, such as outdoor lights on 24 hours a day and stacked up mail. If you are out of town, use a timer that will turn lights, televisions, and radios on and off so the house appears to be occupied.
- Do not hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above the door ledges because burglars know where to look.
- Do not post your family name on the mailbox. A burglar can call directory assistance to get your telephone number and call while in front of your house to confirm you are away.
- Do not announce that you are away on vacation on your answering machine message or post your holiday plans on social media sites.
- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings while out shopping, especially if you are alone. Never park in an unlit parking lot or in an area with reduced visibility.

- Lock your vehicle every time you get out. Hide your packages in the trunk or simply out of plain sight.
- Have your keys readily available when walking to your vehicle. Look around to make sure you are not being followed. Scan the interior of your vehicle to make sure no one is hiding inside.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.
   Women should carry their purse under their arm. Men should carry their wallets in an inside jacket pocket, not in the back pocket of their pants.
- Do not pile empty boxes from your new electronics out by the curb. Burglars can see the gift items you received. Break down

the boxes or cut them into smaller pieces and place them in a



concealed garbage bag.

Please do not dripk and

Please do not drink and drive.

## Streetlights

CenterPoint Energy maintains streetlights throughout our area. To report a street light outage, call 713-207-2222 or visit www.centerpointenergy.com/cehe/support/streetlight. You will be asked to provide the 6-digit stenciled number on the pole to identify the exact location of the pole with the issue.



## **Public Works**

## Flood Map Information

To view the flood maps and determine the flood zone your property is in, call 281-478-7239, go to http://maps.riskmap6.com/TX/Harris/, or visit the Public Works Dept. at City Hall.

#### Prevent Clogged Drains and Sewer Overflows

Disposing of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down your household fixtures can be a health hazard, cause an unwelcome clogged sink or toilet, and cost you and your city lots of money.

Blockages account for 43% of all sanitary sewer overflows. You should avoid sending any foreign material down your sewer pipes, including paper products, wood, metal, and toys. The worst items to send down the drain are, of course, fats, oils, and grease. FOG solidifies in the lines of the collection system and form large chunks that get stuck or build up on the walls of the pipes, thus narrowing the lines headed to the treatment plant. A blockage of the collection system could cause sanitary sewer overflow, in which the sewer overflows and spills into ditches, the ship channel, and the bay. It could also cause the sewer system to backup into your yard and home. Untreated wastewater can be quite costly to clean up and can cause serious health issues for you and the surrounding community, including killing fish in our waterways.

Instead of pouring your cooking oil and grease into the sink drain, place them in a container with a tight sealing lid. Once your used grease solidifies, place it in a trash bag. Liquid oil and grease can be placed

## **Public Works**

in a container, such as an old milk carton, and placed at the street curb with your normal household trash. The city will collect your used motor oil and cooking oil. For residents who compost, used cooking oil is biodegradable and can be added to your compost piles.

A common misconception that can lead to the discharge of FOG into the system is running hot water and slowly pouring FOG down the drain so it does not cause a blockage. If the fats, oils, and grease make it through your lines to the main line, which is not likely due to the FOG cooling too fast, the blockage will be building downstream from your connection.

Please properly dispose of FOG and do not send it into the lines of the collection system. Your participation can save money and prevent backups into homes.

#### Flood Risk and Insurance

Below are a few details to keep in mind when making decisions regarding flood risk and insurance.

- Federal disaster assistance is usually provided in the form of a loan that must be paid back with interest along with your existing mortgage.
- Total flood insurance claims in the United States averaged more than \$3.5 billion per year from 2005 to 2014.
- In the past 5 years, all 50 states have experienced a flood.
- Floods are the #1 disaster in the United States.
- Everyone is at risk, even those who do not live close to rivers and lakes. Floods can be the result of heavy rains, overloaded drainage systems, land devel-

opment runoff, and tropical storms. Just one inch of water can cause extensive costly damage to a home and its contents.

- Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
- More than 5 million Americans are protected by flood insurance. Unfortunately, millions more are unaware of their personal risk for property damage or the options available to reduce that risk.
- It typically takes 30 days after you purchase flood insurance for the policy to take effect.
- The average premium is \$700 a year; the average claim is \$42,000.

For more information on flood insurance and flood risk, go to FloodSmart.gov.

#### Brush, Limb & Heavy Trash Removal

Wednesdays are reserved for heavy trash pickup. Occasionally, the volume of heavy trash will require more than one day to service the entire city. In this case, the remainder of heavy trash will be picked up by Friday.

Items such as yard trash, tree limbs, broken and discarded toys, small pieces of furniture, and appliances should be placed behind the curb line for collection by 8am. Tree limbs should be smaller than 6 inches in diameter and no more than 4 feet in length. The limbs should be stacked neatly behind the curb line. Please be aware that the city is not responsible for picking up debris generated by private contract jobs. To discard refrigerators, please remove the door or secure it with tape or a rope to prevent

children from getting inside the appliance. City residents may also dispose of heavy trash at the Transfer Station.

## **Building Permits**

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction on a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. Your permit allows the city code official to reduce potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensure that your completed project meets minimum standards.

Building permits protect the value of the construction project for your home or business. If your construction project does not comply with the adopted codes, the value of your investment may decrease. In addition, property insurers may not cover the work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell your home or building after making modifications without the proper permits, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied, or make costly repairs.

By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to anyone. If an incident that triggers a lawsuit does occur, a property owner can show that he or she went through the appropriate process for a building permit and consistently met code requirements through inspections by code officials.

## City Projects

Rehabilitation of the Coy St.
 1-Million Gallon Ground Storage
 Tank - The Coy St. ground storage tank is being rehabilitated

## **Public Works**

- inside and out. The project was awarded to Blastco Texas, Inc. for \$432,500 and is being funded out of water/sewer bond funds. This project began construction in Sept. 2015 and is expected to be completed during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter in 2016.
- This project has been awarded to CSA Construction for \$4,908,600. In May of 2013, City Council authorized staff to enter into a contract with CDM Smith for the design of Phase I. Construction began in June 2015. The project is identified in the 10-year Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Plan and is split into two phases. It is being funded with Certificates of Obligation.
- Water Line Improvements, Phase *III* - The project involves rehabilitating 3,100 linear feet of existing 6" and 8" water lines. The lines will be increased to 6", 8" and 12" HDPE. New fire hydrants will be installed as well. The project will take place on Martha, Peggy, and Marlene Streets, plus a portion of 8th St. This project is through the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program. PM Construction and Rehab, LLC will perform the work for \$532,896. Construction began in Oct. 2015 and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- P Street Detention Pond Rehabilitation This project involves cleaning, regrading, and stabilizing detention ponds located on either side of East P Street near the Parkside Place and Park Meadows subdivisions. The

- work will greatly improve the functionality of the ponds. This project was awarded to Storm-Tex Services for \$93,700.72. It is being funded out of stormwater funds. Construction began in Oct. 2015 and is expected to be completed before the end of the year.
- Police Firing Range and Class-room In Nov. 2014, City Council authorized staff to enter into a contract with Griggs Group, Inc. (G2) for the design of the Deer Park Police Firing Range and Class-room. On July 6, 2015, the CCPD Board authorized staff to approach City Council to begin the bid process. The construction of the facility will be funded through CCPD funds. The project is expected to be awarded by Dec. 2015.

## Resident Reminders

Abiding by certain standards will help preserve peace in neighborhoods and allow residents to enjoy their homes and properties. Please remember not to leave boats, trailers, abandoned or junk vehicles, storage containers, etc. on public streets for long periods of time. A vehicle parked on a public street should be in working condition with a current registration sticker. When parking on a public street, leave enough room for other vehicles, including fire trucks and garbage trucks, to get by. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## Library News

**Storytime** programs for toddlers and preschool children incorporate books, fingerplays, songs, and activities to promote interest in reading and lifelong learning.

A *Holiday Storytime* session for toddlers and preschoolers will be offered on Dec. 10 at 10:30am. Refreshments will be served.



## Toddler Storytime

For children up to 3½ years old Wed. & Thurs., 10:15-10:45am Jan. 6-Apr. 28

The sessions include stories and activities designed to encourage a love for books, increase attention spans, and develop basic social skills. Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the toddler to encourage them to participate.

## Preschool Storytime

For ages 3½ to 6 Thursdays, 11-11:45am Jan. 7-Apr. 28

In these sessions, children listen to stories and participate in group activities.

## Holiday Craft

For ages 5 to 12 Dec. 8, 3:30-4:30pm

Materials to assemble the holiday craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate children ages 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12 will be available.

## Star Wars Craft

For ages 5 to 12 Jan. 12, 3:30-4:30pm

Materials to assemble the Star Wars-themed craft will be provided to



children free of charge. Crafts to

## Library News

accommodate children of different age levels will be available.



For ages 5 to 12 Feb. 9, 3:30-4:30pm

Materials to assemble the Valentine's Day craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate children ages 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12 will be available.

#### Teen Tech

For school-aged teens Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm

Teens will enjoy socializing and friendly competition at video gaming, board games, and card games. Free snacks are provided by the Friends of the Library.

## T.A.B. Meeting For ages 13 to 18

Join the Teen Advisory Board and help plan for teen programs. Discuss reading trends and make suggestions for the teen collection. Meetings will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4pm. If you are interested, contact Robert at rzambrano@deerparktx.org.

## **Teen Mystery Dinner**For school-aged teens Feb. 11, 4-6pm

At this dinner, everyone is a suspect, even you! Participants will be given clues to solve the mystery while enjoying a barbecue dinner provided by the Friends of the Library. Registration starts Jan. 11, 2016.

## **Spring Break at the Library**The library will offer several programs throughout the week of

spring break (Mar. 14-18) for children and families. Brochures with a list of activities will be available at the library in February. You can also go to www.deerparktx.gov/library for more information.

## Movie Matinee Thursdays, 3:30pm

Join us for a movie and popcorn. Call 281-478-7208 for movie titles and suggested age ratings.

## Beginning Crochet

For ages 8 to adult Tuesdays, Dec. 1-22, 7-8pm

This free class is offered for those with some or no previous knowledge. Initial materials provided. Registration is not required. If you have chemo caps you are donating for cancer patients, please bring them to class by Dec. 8.

Mystery Book Club meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Join other mystery readers to discuss the selected books and other mystery favorites. Registration is not required. You are welcome to come whether you have read the books or not. There are no book selections for *Dec.* 8. The club will meet to discuss this year's favorite books. On *Jan. 12*, the books to talk about are classics for cold weather: One Corpse Too Many by Ellis Peters and Peril at End House by Agatha Christie. February book selections will be determined in December. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/library or call 281-478-7208 for details.

## Computer Classes

Computer classes are free, but registration is required. Open lab sessions are also available.

 Introduction to Computers -Become familiar with comput-

- ers and technical terminology, plus get comfortable using a mouse, opening software applications, and other basic skills.
- Browsing the Web Learn the basic skills of browsing the world wide web. Topics include search engines, simple search techniques, security precautions, and the basics of e-mail.
- Using Social Networks Learn the basics of social networking sites and how they are used.
   Websites to be discussed include Facebook and LinkedIn.
- Microsoft Word 2010 Basics -Become familiar with the 2010 version of Word and learn how to create and edit basic Word documents.
- Microsoft Excel 2010 Basics Become familiar with the 2010
  version of Excel and learn how
  to create and edit basic spreadsheets, as well as use simple
  formulas and functions.
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2010

  Basics Become familiar with the 2010 version of Power
  Point and learn how to create a presentation using themes, illustrations, transitions, and animation.
- Open Lab Session One-onone assistance for Microsoft Office programs, Windows 7, and more. Our staff can assist with document formatting and electronic resources.
- Basic Genealogy Learn how to use the library's resources to research your family history.
   Become familiar with Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage-Quest Online.
- Genealogy Lab One-on-one assistance in your search for family history. Basic Genealogy is a pre-requisite for this lab.

## Library News

- Find a Job Become familiar
  with the resources available
  to assist you with exploring
  career opportunities, creating
  or updating a resume and cover
  letter, preparing for an interview, and more.
- Keys for Career Seekers Discover online resources to assist you with each stage of the job search process, including LinkedIn and Career Cruising.

## New Arrivals for Adults

#### December

- *The Bone Labyrinth* by James Rollins
- The Forgotten Soldier: A
   Pike Logan Thriller by
   Brad Taylor



Dark Corners by Ruth Rendell

#### January

- Private Paris by James Patterson & Mark Sullivan
- Even Dogs in the Wild by Ian Rankin
- The Ex by Alafair Burke

#### *February*

- Breakdown: An Alex
   Delaware Novel by Jonathan Kellerman
- Honky Tonk Samurai by Joe R. Lansdale
- Brotherhood in Death by J.D. Robb
- She's Not There by Joy Fielding

## **DPTV**



Watch new episodes of the Texas Parks & Wildlife series on

DPTV every Wednesday at 9:30am & 7:30pm. The episode repeats on Saturday at 10:30am. You'll be inspired to get outdoors!

## 2015 Employee Awards



## **Healthy Living**

## Swap for Healthier Alternatives

Are you wondering how you will get through another holiday season without feeling incredibly guilty when you indulge in the sweet treats you bake to spread joy and cheer? Swap a few simple ingredients in your reci-



pes to reduce calories, sugar, and fat without sacrificing taste. Choosing healthier alternatives will also help increase the nutritional value of your recipes. When baking, use whole wheat flour instead of white flour. Try using pureed avocado or pumpkin, mashed banana, or applesauce instead of oil or butter. You can also replace sour cream with plain Greek yogurt. Keep in mind that even though you are swapping for healthier ingredients, don't overindulge. Moderation is still key.

## Parks & Recreation

## Tiffany's Tips

#### Prepare Your Plants Winter

Prepare your plants for winter with a few easy steps.

- Stop fertilizing If you feed your plants now, they will produce tender growth that will likely be damaged by the cold, dry wind. Most plants will become dormant over the winter months and produce very little growth, if any.
- Relocate potted plants Potted plants do not have insulation from the ground during freezing temperatures so they should be moved indoors. Ceramic pots are known for cracking during freezing temperatures.
- Cover plants If your plants are sensitive to cold weather, you can cover them with frost cloth. Drape the cloth completely over the plant so that it is touching the ground on all sides and trapping the heat that is released out of the soil. Dehydrated plants are more susceptible to frost damage. On nights when the temperature is expected to drop below freezing, moisten the soil (do not soak) so it retains more heat.

**Boxing Classes** 

Starts Dec. 1, Tues., Wed., & Thurs., 3-3:55pm or 4-4:55pm, for ages 8 & over, \$40 one time enrollment fee, plus \$20 per week (2 days per week) or \$25 per week (3 days per week), Earl Dunn Gym Learn to box like a pro. Whether you are looking to compete or just want a phenomenal cardio workout, come check it out! Only 12 students per class.

Co-ed Adult Volleyball

Starts Dec. 1, Tuesdays, 6:45pm, for ages 17 & over, \$125 per team (early registration by 11/17/15), \$150 per team (after 11/17/15), Earl Dunn Gym This is an 8-week league followed by a single elimination tournament. A team must have a minimum of 6 players and at least 2 of the players must be female. Games will not be played the week of Christmas.

5th Annual Reindeer Park

Dec. 4, 6-9pm & Dec. 5, 4-8:30pm Join us for this fun-filled 2-day event! There will be a Santa's Village with craft vendors, photos with Santa, Santa's Tree Farm, the Christmas tree lighting, snow areas and slides, A Christmas Carol movie, a lighted Christmas parade, and much more! The theatre will host Mrs. Clause's Marketplace and Seussical the Musical. Overflow parking will be at the Houston Area Safety Council, where a shuttle service will be available to transport passengers to and from the Jimmy Burke Activity Center and theatre. The shuttle service will operate from 4 to 8pm on Dec. 5. For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark.

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Dec. 4, 6pm, Court & Theatre
Building Join Frosty the Snowman,
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,

Santa Claus, and his elves as we kick off the holiday season with the lighting of the Christmas tree. You will also enjoy performances by DPHS Swing Choir and SJE Choir, Art Park Singers, Reaction, and the APP Dance Troupe. There will be concessions, local vendors, and photos with Santa at Patrick's Cabin.

#### Reindeer Dash

Dec. 5, 8am, for all ages, \$20 per person (pre-registration) or \$25 per person (race day), Jimmy Burke Activity Center Bring the whole family on this 5K cross country course led by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Please note that awards will not be given. However, the chip timing system will be in place. All proceeds from the Reindeer Dash will benefit the Deer Park Opportunity Center, a local non-profit organization helping DPISD students and families in need. Packet pick up is Dec. 4, 12-6pm in the Earl Dunn Gym. T-shirts will be given to those registered by Nov. 30.

Santa Calling

Dec. 8 & 10, 6-8:30pm Santa's phone call is absolutely free. It's intended for children who can hold a conversation and believe in Santa Claus. Sign up online at www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.

Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 12, 9-10:30am, \$10 per child, \$5 per adult, Deer Park Community Center Santa will stop by for breakfast before heading off to the North Pole to finish preparing for the big day. Children will enjoy making a wish list and holiday crafts. Participants will be served a McDonald's Big Deluxe Breakfast. The event is limited to the first 50 children.

## Parks & Recreation

## Santa's Night Out

Dec. 18, 6pm-12am, for ages 5-11, \$25 per child, Deer Park Community Center, Rm 11 The children will enjoy a night of fun with dinner and a ride to Moody Gardens for the Festival of Lights. The fun continues after returning from Galveston with games, a movie, and snacks.

## Art Park Dancers' Annual Holiday Gala

The Art Park Dancers' Annual Holiday Gala is at 8pm on Dec. 18 at the Municipal Court & Building. The performance includes holiday-themed dance routines and a preview of the 2016 competition team routines. Purchase your tickets for \$5 each at the Deer Park Community Center starting Nov. 30.

## Market Days

Dec. 19, Jan. 16 & Feb. 20, 9am-1pm, Dow Park Stroll through Dow Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. Market Days help support local businesses by allowing them to sell their ready-made or homemade items. There is always something there for everyone. Parking is free for this event. Please contact Betty Geck at marketdays@yahoo.com if you wish to be a vendor.

## Elf Camp

Dec. 21 & 22, 9am-5pm, for ages 6-11, \$25 per child per day, Claude Burgess Recreation Center Parents, don't miss this opportunity to get all of your last minute Christmas shopping done. We've got an enjoyable day filled with games, cooking, arts & crafts, and more for your little ones. Limited to 25. Children must bring a sack lunch.

#### Skills & Drills

Dec. 28-30, 9:30am-12pm, for ages 7-12, \$45 per child, Earl Dunn Gym Children will improve their skills in ball handling, shooting, passing, defense, and more in this 3-day basketball camp.

#### Archery Camp

Dec. 28-30, 10am-2pm, for ages 9-14, \$40 per child, Jimmy Burke Activity Center This is a crash course in Recurve Archery! Participants will learn foundational archery skills and about safety from a US Archery instructor. Archery instills confidence, increases attention span, and inspires a willingness to try other sports.

## Women's Self Defense

Jan. 6, Feb. 3 & Mar. 2, 6:45-8:30pm, for ages 12 & over, \$35 per person, Claude Burgess Recreation Center, Instructor Tania Weber
Learn how to defend yourself and your family in a threatening situation. This program will teach you about situational awareness and personal protection tools, as well as provide tips on staying safe, improvised weapons, and simple self-defense techniques.

## NRA's Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program for Children

Jan. 12, Feb. 9 & Mar. 8, 3-4pm, for ages 3-10, \$10 per child, Deer Park Community Center This is the #1 gun accident prevention program in the nation. Children learn what to do if they ever come across a gun through four simple steps: Stop! Don't touch! Run away! Go tell a grown-up! This program includes watching a movie, storytime, a craft project for kids, as well as a parent's guide to gun safety, and a certificate for the participant.

## Concealed Handgun Class

Jan. 16, 8:30am-3pm, for ages 21 & over or 18, if actively serving in the military, \$80 per person, plus a \$15 fee paid directly to the range, Deer Park Community Cen*ter* This course covers the rules and regulations to obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm in the State of Texas, as well as the safety, maintenance, and storage of a firearm. The class is designed for those getting their license for the first time. Renewals are now handled online through the Texas Department of Public Safety at www.txdps.state.tx.us. Fingerprinting is required prior to the class. The closest fingerprinting location is L1 Identity in Pasadena. Forms that must be completed prior to start of class are available online at www.tchconcealed.com.

## Youth & Family Painting

Jan. 22, 6:30-8pm, for ages 7 & over, \$25 per canvas, \$10 for each additional canvas per family, Deer Park Community Center, Instructor Pam Gross Enjoy a night out with the family and take home a painted masterpiece. Pam will guide you step by step. No painting experience necessary. Parents of young children are asked to stay and help the children with their paintings. You are welcome to bring snacks.

## Texas Style Polar Plunge

Jan. 22, 7-8:30pm, for all ages, \$25 per person, Dow Park Pool Brave the cold weather by the pool and join us for music, door prizes, food, and more! A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Special Olympics. All participants will receive a towel. T-shirts will be for sale at the event.

## Parks & Recreation

## **Adult Painting Class**

Jan. 29, 6:30-9pm, for ages 18 & over, \$30 per person (supplies included), Deer Park Community Center Enjoy a night out and take home a painted masterpiece. Pam will guide you step by step. No painting experience necessary. You are welcome to bring snacks and beverages.

Roscoe's Fishing Adventure
Jan. 29, 4-8pm & Jan. 30, 10am2pm, free for all ages, Dow Park
Pool Join us for a fishing adventure
at Dow Park Pool. The pool will
be stocked with rainbow trout!
Registration is required. Jan. 29 is
reserved for special populations,
veterans, and their families. Jan. 30
is open to all adults and children.

#### Another Man's Treasure

Feb. 19, 7am-3pm & Feb. 20, 7am-2pm, Free admission and parking, Jimmy Burke Activity Center Discover your treasure at the citywide garage sale. Plan to shop for bargains or find out how to become a vendor. For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrecreation or call 281-478-2050.

## Master's Swim Program

Starts May 2016, Mon.-Fri., 5:30am, for ages 18 & over, Dow Park Pool The City of Deer Park Aquatics team is offering a master's program for adult swimmers. The program will target a wide range of individual goals, including recreation, fitness, and competitive training. For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrecreation or call 281-478-2050. If you are interested in the program, contact Lacy Stole at lstole@deerparktx.org.

## **Maxwell Center**

The Maxwell Adult Center is a recreational facility for citizens, ages 55 & over. A coffee bar with free Wi-Fi is available. For more details, call 281-478-7276.

#### Meal Programs

Seniors can participate in a congregate meal program and eat at the Maxwell Center, or for those who qualify, sign up for the homebound meal service and we'll deliver lunch to your home, Monday-Friday.

#### Fitness Center

The fitness room is open 6 days a week. Our equipment includes 2 recumbent bikes, a treadmill, and an elliptical machine. Hours of operation are as follows:

Mon., Wed. & Fri., 7am-5pm Tues. & Thurs., 7am-7pm Sat., 7am-12pm

#### Pick N' Grin Jam Session Fridays, 7pm

Come enjoy the music, make new friends, and share stories! Bring an instrument to play or simply come to sing along and dance. Light refreshments provided.

#### Classes

Knitting & Crochet Learn to knit and crochet. Join the group whether you have some or no experience.

*Ceramics* Learn to create functional and decorative ceramics from mold to paint.

Arts & Crafts Learn to hand stitch quilts and the basics of making personal greeting cards.

*Leatherworking* Learn to stitch, tool, and cut your own leather master piece. All tools provided.

*Wood Carving* Learn the techniques in the art of wood carving.

*Oil Painting* Learn the basics of painting and allow our instructors to guide you in creating your own masterpiece.

## Senior Trips

Dec. 6-12, \$575 per person, Branson Holiday Show Extravaganza - Trip includes motorcoach transportation, lodging for 6 nights, 10 meals, admission to 7 fabulous Branson shows, 3 evening shows, and Showboat Branson Belle.

March 20-30, Rates vary, Western Caribbean Cruise - This 10-day Princess Cruise will head out of Houston to Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Honduras, Belize, and Mexico.

For more information on upcoming trips, contact Marlene at 281-478-7276.

## Adopt-a-Pet

Dogs and cats are available for adoption at the Deer Park Animal Shelter. There



is a \$50 adoption fee, plus you must prepay for the spaying or neutering of the animal and a rabies vaccination. To view the pets currently available for adoption, visit the shelter, located at 4213 Luella, Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm or Sat., 8am-12pm, or go to ww.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter. For more information, call 281-478-7274.

## **Art Park Players**

# Mrs. Kringle's Claus-et & Tea Room Luncheon Shopping Extravaganza Dec. 4, 11am-1pm \$10 per ticket

Join the Art Park Players as they kick off the Reindeer Park Festival with this special event! There will be a tea room style lunch, a Christmas gift, and door prizes awarded every 15 minutes. You will find plenty of vendors for holiday shopping, as well as The Louise McBee Circle of Life, Circle of Wreaths display.

#### Christmas Wonderland Dec. 5, 6pm Meal, 7pm Curtain \$25 per ticket

Join the Art Park Players as they present *Christmas Wonderland*, featuring your favorite Christmas songs and holiday characters. It's a Christmas spectacular for the entire family! Call the Box office at 281-794-2448 to make your reservations. The festivities in the theatre lobby will include concessions, several vendors, Santa and his elves, and The Louise McBee Circle of Life, Circle of Wreaths display benefitting *The Rose*.

#### Auditions for The Addams Family Dec. 8, 7pm

Creepy, kooky, mysterious, and spooky. Have you ever wanted to be a part of the most notorious family on 001 Cemetery Lane? Teens and adults are encouraged to audition to be a part of *The Addams Family Musical*. You must bring a headshot, resume, prepared song, and be ready to dance. For more information, call 281-478-7288.



# The Addams Family Feb. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 7pm Meal, 8pm Curtain Feb. 14 & 21 1pm Meal, 2pm Curtain

In this original story, the macabre Addams Family is put to the test when outsiders come to dinner, hurling Gomez, Morticia, Wednesday, Pugsley, Uncle Fester, Grandmama and Lurch headlong into a night that will change the family forever. Join us for an unforgettable evening of food and fun. The Valentine's Day performance includes a rose and box of chocolates for your sweetheart.



For more information, call 281-478-7288. To purchase tickets to any of our shows, call the Art

Park Players Box Office at 281-794-2448. Unless otherwise noted, productions and auditions are held at the Municipal Court & Theatre Building located at 1302 Center Street.

## **Notify Me**



Stay informed with news and announcements from the

City of Deer Park by joining the e-mail subscription lists of your choice. Go to www.deerparktx.gov and select *Notify Me*.

## **Economic Development**

#### **Business News**

- Mojo's Dance Boutique is open at 2504 Center St. (near Tresses Hair Salon and Las Hadas Mexican Restaurant). Check out the unique dance, cheer, drill team, gymnastics, and ballet clothing, as well as accessories and more.
- Altar'd Market has moved to 122 W. San Augustine (former location of Curves, which closed its doors July 1).
- AppleSassy Children's Resale & Boutique is open at 4514 Center St. (formerly Lola's Resale).

  Owner and Deer Park resident, Tonya Pressley, moved the store from its former location on Fairmont. She also owns Pressley Party Rentals and offers free delivery within 15 miles for moonwalks, water slides, tables, and chairs.
- Lucky Pawz Pet Boutique at 3811 Center St. (near Baskin-Robbins) recently celebrated its 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. Congratulations Brett and Stacey Roy, owners and Deer Park residents.



- Liberty Mortgage and Team Liberty Real Estate have relocated to 3710 Center St. (across the street from Starbucks at Estate Dr.).
- Deer Park Jewelry (3802 Center St.) has moved across the street, merging with DP Jewelry Factory at 4005 Center St. (next door to Simonize Car Wash). Both businesses are owned by the same family.

## Economic Development

- Area native Marshall Cevallos has opened CEV Athletics at 106 E. San Augustine (former location of Altar'd Market). Marshall discovered Jiu Jitsu after his young daughter started showing signs of autism. Jiu Jitsu, as well as other forms of martial arts, teaches learningdisabled children structure, team building, and life skills. CEV Athletics offers programs for women, children, beginners, and executives.
- There was a study done 4 years ago, which counted the number of large, commercial trucks on State Highway 225. There were an estimated 10,000 trucks per day at that time. A more recent study indicated there are now 25,000 trucks per day (that's roughly 50 trucks each minute). Experts are estimating that there will be roughly 50% to 100% more trucks traveling SH-225 in 2 to 3 years because of the large number of local projects under construction along the ship channel.

For questions, contact Debbie Westbeld at 281-478-2042 or go to www.deerparktx.gov/ed.

## **Emergency Alerts**

Deer Park residents are encouraged to register for the city's emergency notification service. To add your contact information to the database, call 281-479-2394 or go to www.deerparktx.gov/oem, click on the Blackboard Connect icon, and then click on the onestep notification sign up icon.

## Council Actions

## August 2015

- Approved an ordinance adopting the juvenile curfew for 3 years.
- Awarded the bid for the P Street Detention Ponds Rehabilitation to Storm-Tex Services in the amount of \$93,700.72.
- Authorized the sale of surplus equipment and miscellaneous items to be auctioned via the internet through Rene Bates Auctioneers.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for mowing and edging services on city-maintained esplanades, entrances, and right-of-ways.
- Accepted the capital improvement funds plan from the Touchstone Golf, LLC 3<sup>rd</sup> year commitment lease.
- Accepted the proposal from Mike Pietsch Consulting for ISO audit consulting services in the amount of \$28,000.
- Approved an agreement with Langford Engineering for a preliminary engineering report on the replacement of transfer pumps at the Surface Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$7,500.
- Approved an extension of the current agreement with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for disaster debris monitoring services with a new expiration date of December 31, 2018.
- Amended the agreement with H-GAC to allow for the installation and completion of the Gateway Project due to weather delays. New projected completion date: October 25, 2015.
- Approved a resolution encouraging the Texas Municipal League to adopt a resolution supporting a Coastal Barrier System.

- Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and an ordinance per the request of the Deer Park Police Dept. for a specific use permit to place a storage container at the Police Firing Range and Training Facility.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2015-2016 Crime Control & Prevention District Budget.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2015-2016 Fire
  Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services District
  Budget.
- Authorized the purchase of chairs for the Deer Park Police Dept. Administration offices.
- Approved an amendment for a Texas Department of Transportation incentive award to allow for the purchase of 2 Pro-Laser radars.
- Approved an extension of the current agreement with Crowder-Gulf Joint Venture, LLC for disaster debris management and removal services with a new expiration date of Sept. 16, 2016.
- Accepted a proposal from Fuquay, Inc. for the rehabilitation of hole #5 pond overflow system at the Battleground Golf Course in the amount of \$95,931.
- Approved a resolution updating Section 6.1 of the personnel manual related to vacation leave.
- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2014-2015 budget to allow for project repair costs at the Battleground Golf Course.
- Approved an ordinance appointing members to the

## **Council Actions**

- Crime Control & Prevention District Board of Directors.
- Approved an ordinance appointing members to the Fire Control, Prevention & Emergency Medical Services District Board of Directors.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of the City of Deer Park, Texas, Certificates of Obligation, Series 2015.

## September 2015

- Awarded the bid for investment advisory services to Valley View Consulting in the amount of \$32,000.
- Authorized expenses for City Council to attend the National League of Cities Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Authorized expenses for City Council to attend the Texas Municipal League Conference in San Antonio, Texas.
- Accepted the Quarterly Financial Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ending June 30, 2015.
- Accepted the completion of Fire Station #2 Paving Improvements project. Final cost was \$46,536.08.
- Approved a grant application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for 2 Lucas-2 Chest Compression Systems.
- Approved the casting of a ballot for a trustee for the TML-IEBP Region 14 Board.
- Approved a resolution updating Section 3.1 of the personnel manual related to probationary employees.
- Approved a resolution amending the drug and alcohol policy.
- Approved the Deer Park Community Development Corporation Bylaws.

- Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and an ordinance to rezone the property located in the 800 block of West Pasadena Blvd. from Multi-Family 2 to a Planned Unit Development for an apartment complex.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and an ordinance for a specific use permit to conduct faith-based programs at 4317 Red Bluff Road.
- Awarded the bid for snack and beverage vending, including coffee services, for all city facilities to Barrett Vending.
- Approved an ordinance changing the time of the Oct. 6, 2015 regular Council meeting to 5:30pm due to National Night Out.
- Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report for April through June 2015.
- Accepted the completion of the traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Pasadena Blvd. and Center St. Final cost was \$35,513.29.
- Approved an ordinance amending the city's financial management policy.
- Approved the appointment of members to the city's Finance Committee.
- Approved the appointment of 3 members to the city's Boards and Commissions Selection Committee.
- Approved the appointment of members to the city's Animal Shelter Advisory Committee.
- Approved an agreement with The Chapman Firm to develop professional services and construction contracts for the city.
- Approved a resolution to restrict

- a portion of the unrestricted net assets in the Series 2002 Texas Water Development Board Fund.
- Approved a resolution supporting the nomination of a representative to the Harris County Appraisal District Board of Directors.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2015-2016 budget.
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 106-25 (b)(c) of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to water and sewer rates.
- Approved an ordinance adopting the FY 2015-2016 Employee Classification and Salary Scales.
- Approved an ordinance regarding the annual review of the city's investment policy.
- Approved an ordinance appointing a member to the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.
- Approved an ordinance establishing dates and times for two public hearings on the proposed 2015 tax rate.

#### October 2015

- Authorized the sale of Certificates of Obligation and a resolution authorizing the publication of Notice of Intent to Issue Certificates of Obligation.
- Awarded the bid for mowing and edging services on citymaintained medians, entrances and right-of-ways to Yes America Enterprises in the amount of \$72,900.
- Appointed a City of Deer Park representative to the 2016 Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly and Board of Directors.
- Approved a specific use permit for a wireless telecommunica-

## **Council Actions**

- tion tower at 5210 Railroad St.
- Approved an amendment to the agreement with the Crime Control & Prevention District FY 2015-2016, which calls for the city to provide administrative services for the District.
- Approved an amendment to the agreement with the Fire Control, Prevention, and Emergency Medical Services District FY 2015-2016, which calls for the city to provide administrative services for the District.
- Authorized issuance of a Request for Qualifications for architectural services for the Deer Park Community Development Corporation project.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the negotiation and execution of any and all documents incidental to the establishment of investment accounts.
- Approved an ordinance appointing 2 associate judges to the Municipal Court of the City of Deer Park.
- Approved an ordinance amending the 2014-2015 budget for the purpose of purchasing Christmas decorations.
- Accepted the completion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Replacement project. Final cost was \$878,414.89.
- Authorized the purchase of pumps and valves for the P Street well site pump station in the amount of \$58,210.
- Authorized staff to seek proposals for billing and collections services for EMS fees.
- Authorized Fuquay, Inc. to perform emergency manhole rehabilitation on Railroad Avenue in the amount of \$39,472.
- Approved the naming of a voting delegate and alternate voting

- delegate to the 2015 National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition.
- Approved a contract with Phoenix Coating Surveillance LLC for inspection services during painting of the Coy St. ground storage tank in the amount of \$19,500.
- Approved an agreement with the Deer Park Community Development Corporation regarding the construction of improvements.
- Approved a contract with CDM Smith for Phase II of the Wastewater Renovation project in the amount of \$2,130,425.
- Approved an ordinance levying ad valorem taxes for 2015.
- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2015-2016 budget regarding the Deer Park Community Development Corporation budget.
- Approved an ordinance amending the FY 2015-2016 budget for the purpose of making repairs to the overflow system on hole #5 at the Battleground Golf Course.
- Approved the purchase of museum display cabinets and historical signs.

## Garage Sales

The Garage sale permit fee is \$5 and may be obtained at City Hall. A garage sale sign permit is available for an additional \$5. A \$25 deposit is also required and will be refunded to you once all stickers are returned. A garage sale permit can be issued only once within a 6-month period for the same address or same person and cannot exceed 10 consecutive days.

## Recycle

We offer single-stream recycling at the transfer station! Residents can recycle their paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, and metal cans by dropping them all into one single bin. Sorting your recyclables is no longer necessary. The guidelines to ensure that quality material goes into the recycling bins can be found at www.deerparktx.gov/recycle. When you recycle, be aware that food waste, plastic bags, and polystyrene foam cups and containers are not acceptable. Improper recycling can slow down the process or even ruin the entire load of recyclables. The Transfer Station is located at 610 Underwood Road and open Monday through Friday, 8am to 6pm, and Saturday, 9am to 6pm. For more information, call 281-478-7213.

## **Prescription Program**

The City of Deer Park, in collaboration with the National League of Cities, offers a prescription discount card program that may save residents an average of 20% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies. The card is free to all Deer Park residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health insurance. For more information, call 888-620-1749 toll free or go to www.deerparktx.gov, hover over Our Community, and click on Prescription Discount Card Program.

## Register Today - Before a Storm is on its way! Transportation Assistance Registry

If you will need help evacuating in the event of a hurricane, please dial 2-1-1 to register in advance for a ride. Dial 2-1-1 as soon as possible, if you:

- Have a disability or special health care need and require assistance to get out.
- Cannot drive and cannot arrange for transportation.
- Do not have a vehicle and you have no one else to help you evacuate.

The 2-1-1 registration process gives local emergency planners a better idea of the number of individuals who may need assistance, and the type of assistance they may need. The State of Texas will provide your information back to local emergency planners so they can plan accordingly.

Once you are registered, your information is safe in the state database. There is no need to call either 2-1-1 or your local emergency management office back to verify registration. This includes people who registered last year. Unless there is a change to your information, you do not need to re-register.

You will need the following information to register:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number (There is only room for one number, so please give the best number to call.)
- Contact name
- Contact relationship (aunt, brother, son, friend, landlord, etc.)
- Contact phone number
- Do you need transportation? (yes or no)
- Do you have any pets or service animals? (yes or no)
- Do you have a special medical need? (Describe the type of need you have.)



Save Your Life. Dial 2-1-1 To Register In Advance For A Ride.

## Report A Concern

To report a concern or issue that needs our attention, complete this form and return it to: City Manager, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

You can also submit the appropriate form online at www.deerparktx.gov.

#### Together we can make Deer Park a better place!

Name:	
Phone:	Best time to call:
Location of concern:	
Describe the issue:	



Deer Park, TX 77536

Presorted Std. U.S. Postage PAID Deer Park, Texas Permit #15

The Mission of the City of Deer Park is to deliver exemplary municipal services that provide the community a high quality of life consistent with our history, culture, and unique character.

## Preserving Deer Park's History - How You Can Help

Within the last year, the City of Deer Park Historical Committee has renewed its efforts to collect any and all pieces of our city's history.

When visiting local facilities including our Theatre and Court Building, the Deer Park Public Library, the Community Center and even our Visitor's Center, you may have noticed the placement of several cabinets filled with letters, photographs, deeds, and other pieces of information. These cabinets are the start of an effort to establish an official museum in the City of Deer Park, a way to capture how our city grew after the historical Battle of San Jacinto, the 1892 settling of Simeon West, and the decades of industrial and social growth that have brought us to where we are today.

But, before we can do that, we need your help to continue to piece together the story of our city. If you have tucked away any letters or postcards, photographs of old relatives that you will permit to be scanned or copied, or family heirlooms of any sort, these could be pivotal to our current efforts. and we would be honored if you would share them. Whether items are donated or temporarily loaned for copying, they will strengthen our collection and our understanding of our city.

On behalf of the City of Deer Park Historical Committee, we encourage you to reach out and become part of this process. For more information, contact Sherry Garrison, City Council member and Historical Committee chair, at 281-479-4683.



City of Deer Park Officials - 1949

## **Online Payments**

You can now make online payments for ambulance fees, retiree insurance, property taxes, court payments, water bills, and building permits. To begin your account inquiry or payment process, go to www.deerparktx.gov.